



## South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



# GOVERNOR CALLS FOR SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Gov. Dennis Daugaard will be convening the South Dakota Legislature for a special legislative session on Saturday, June 22, at 10:30 am, to obtain legislative support to use fiscal year-end funds for the new State Veterans Home in Hot Springs.

After the State Engineer opened the bids for the project, it became apparent that the amount estimated by the architect would not cover the cost of the Veterans Home.

"My priority is to build a durable, quality facility for our veterans – they deserve nothing less," said Gov. Daugaard in an email to legislators. "I do not believe we can afford to wait until January to take action, because we would lose this construction season."

A special legislative session is necessary to prevent the state from losing a \$23 million federal grant already designated to the Veterans Home.

The State is approaching the end of the fiscal year, and anticipates that we will have excess revenues of \$14-20 million at the end of the fiscal year.

Although these excess funds normally go into reserves, Gov. Daugaard will be asking the legislature to appropriate a portion of those funds to make up the gap for the construction of the Veterans Home.



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## DEPARTMENT HOSTS MINI CONFERENCES

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs hosted mini training conferences for county and tribal veterans service officers this past week. The conferences were held in Rapid City, Pierre and Brookings.

Secretary Zimmerman opened each of the conferences with a Department welcome and introductions. He also briefed the VSOs on his visits to their respective offices and reiterated that the VSOS are the storefront for the Department and that it is vital that the Department, the County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers and the veterans service organizations work together to ensure we are the voice for South Dakota's veterans. Zimmerman reviewed the latest veteran population numbers, the 2013 legislative session, his goals to communicate with the VSOs during upcoming legislative sessions, Buffalo Ridge Training Academy and the taskforce that will be reviewing the delivery of services to South Dakota's veterans.

Kathy Metzger from the Sioux Falls Regional Office briefed participants on Stakeholder Enterprise Portal, Fully Developed Claims, Veterans Benefits Management System and the Sioux Falls Regional Office performance.

Aaron Pollard and Jon Gohn, from the Department's Claims Office in Sioux Falls, briefed participants on the 10-20-year protection rule, when to file claims for an increase, reduction and discontinuation of benefits, Camp Lejeune claims, formal vs. informal claims, employability and nursing home claims.

There were over 70 in attendance at the conferences. The next training opportunity for VSOs will be the VSO Annual Benefits School August 26-28, 2013, at the Ramkota Hotel in Pierre.





## SECRETARIES MEET WITH TVSOS

J.R. LaPlante, Secretary of South Dakota Tribal Relations, and Larry Zimmerman, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, met with Tribal Veterans Service Officers last week in Pierre.

During this meeting they visited about the challenges facing tribal veterans, young and old. Most of the discussions focused on safety, transportation, housing, and behavioral health issues on the reservations across South Dakota. Since VA benefits parallel many of the established tribal programs it is important to identify the needs and find solutions that benefit tribal veterans and their families.

Zimmerman and LaPlante plan to meet with Tribal VSOs twice a year.



## VABHHCS AND VET CENTER TO HOST BENEFIT FAIR

The VA Black Hills Health Care System and the Rapid City Vet Center will be conducting an Information and Benefits Fair at the Veteran's Powwow Grounds in Pine Ridge on Friday, June 7. The Fair will run from 11:00 am—2:30 pm.

There will be information available on the Vet Center's services, PTSD, minority veteran services, compensated work therapy, OEF/OIF/OND and suicide prevention.

There will also be representatives available to assist veterans with enrollment. Veterans and their families are encouraged to attend.

Questions and/or request for additional information may be made to Danny Applegarth (605) 683-1300 or Frank Marshall (605) 867-5577.

**Get Your Questions Answered  
by Veterans Benefits Experts**



# 2ND ANNUAL VFW SALUTE THE VETERANS GOLF TOURNAMENT

This patriotic event, dedicated to all Vietnam Veterans, will be held Saturday, June 29th at the well-manicured *Rolling Hills Golf Club* in Aberdeen, SD. Proceeds from event are dedicated to assist area veteran programs.

For just \$75/ player or (\$300/4-person team) enjoy 18 holes of "Best Ball" golf (cart included) as well as entry in the following contests:

- Longest Drive Contest
- Closest to the Pin Challenge
- Longest Putt Contest
- Hole-in-One Shootout (win a golf cart)!
- Military Trivia at Every Hole

Supper and awards ceremony to follow.



## Salute the Veterans VFW Golf Tournament

A Benefit to support Local Veterans

### ROLLING HILLS GOLF CLUB

546 Palmer Circle  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
Phone: (605) 226-4487

#### 4 Person/Team Best Ball

When: Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup>  
Cost: \$75 per player (\$300/Team)  
Registration: 12:30pm - 1:00pm  
RSVP text/call - (605) 848-2874

### WITH A CHANCE TO WIN A GOLF CART!



- Hole-in-One Shootout - win a golf cart!
- Price includes 18 holes and Cart
- Longest Drive Contest
- Closest to the Pin Challenge
- Longest Putt Contest
- Golf/Military Trivia at Every hole
- Supper to Follow

Please pre-register by calling Nicole Renner at (605) 848-2874 or email [renner.nicole79@gmail.com](mailto:renner.nicole79@gmail.com) prior to June 25, 2013. Veterans, bring in proof of your veteran status and get \$5 off of your registration fees!



## DEPARTMENTS PARTICIPATE IN MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAMS AROUND THE STATE

This past Monday citizens gathered in communities throughout this great state to honor our fallen heroes. Programs were held at cemeteries, community centers, school auditoriums and veterans service organizations post homes. It was a time for us to look to our heroes for guidance—guidance for the present and guidance for the future and honoring them by imitating their courage and their sacrifice and their excellence.

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of the Military presented an address at Raymond, SD, while Larry Zimmerman, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs addressed the community of Hot Springs. Randall Meyers, Director of Operations for the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home, welcomed the guests to the program in Hot Springs. David Wells and Charles Claussen addressed groups in Canton and Pierre respectively. During their addresses, they noted how these soldiers have become our teachers, the words and deeds of their lives, remind us of human excellence, of the things for which we stand, of the courage that is necessary to maintain those things and that they taught us what it means to be a citizen of the last best hope of earth. *(some photos were courtesy of the Rapid City Journal)*



### Memorial Day

- C W Johnson

We walked among the crosses  
Where our fallen soldiers lay.  
And listened to the bugle  
As TAPS began to play.  
The Chaplin led a prayer  
We stood with heads bowed low.  
And I thought of fallen comrades  
I had known so long ago.  
They came from every city  
Across this fertile land.  
That we might live in freedom.  
They lie here 'neath the sand.  
I felt a little guilty  
My sacrifice was small.  
I only lost a little time  
But these men lost their all.  
Now the services are over  
For this Memorial Day.  
To the names upon these crosses  
I just want to say,  
Thanks for what you've given  
No one could ask for more.  
May you rest with God in heaven  
From now through evermore.



## HUD AND VA TEAM UP TO PROVIDE PERMANENT HOMES FOR HOMELESS VETS

Approximately 9,000 homeless veterans living on the streets and in the nation's shelter system could soon find a permanent place to call home. U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Eric K. Shinseki announced that HUD will provide \$60 million to local public housing agencies across the country to offer permanent supportive housing to homeless veterans, many of whom are living with chronic disabling conditions.

The supportive housing assistance announced today is provided through the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program which combines rental assistance from HUD with case management and clinical services provided by the VA. Since 2008, a total of 48,385 vouchers have been awarded and 42,557 formerly homeless veterans are currently in homes because of HUD-VASH.

Donovan and Shinseki announced this additional support for homeless veterans in an address to the National Coalition of Homeless Veterans conference in Washington this week. HUD-VASH is a critical part of the Obama Administration's commitment to end veteran and long-term chronic homelessness in 2015. "Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness" serves as a roadmap for how the federal government will work with state and local communities to confront the root causes of homelessness, especially among former servicemen and women. HUD's annual "point in time" estimate of the number of homeless persons and families for 2012 found that veteran homelessness fell by 7.2 percent (or 4,876 people) since January 2011 and by 17.2 percent since January 2009. On a single night in January 2012, 62,619 veterans were homeless.

These grants are part of \$75 million appropriated this year to support the housing needs of homeless veterans. Local public housing authorities provide rental assistance to homeless veterans while nearby VA Medical Centers (VAMC) offer supportive services and case management. This is the first round of the 2013 HUD-VASH funding. HUD expects to announce more HUD-VASH funding this summer.

VAMCs work closely with homeless Veterans then refer them to public housing agencies for these vouchers, based upon a variety of factors, most importantly the duration of the homelessness and the need for longer term more intensive support to obtain and maintain permanent housing. The HUD-VASH program includes both the rental assistance the voucher provides and the comprehensive case management that VAMC staff provides.

Veterans participating in the HUD-VASH program rent privately owned housing and generally contribute no more than 30 percent of their income toward rent. The VA offers eligible homeless veterans clinical and supportive services through its medical centers across the U.S., Guam and Puerto Rico.

More information about HUD and its programs is available at [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov).





## NATIONAL GUARD TO HOST 29TH ANNUAL GOLDEN COYOTE EXERCISE

The South Dakota National Guard will host its 29th annual Golden Coyote training exercise in the Black Hills June 8 – 22 to provide military units with relevant training opportunities in support of overseas contingency operations and homeland defense.

Created in the mid 1980's by the South Dakota National Guard, with the cooperation of the National Forest Service and Custer State Park, this year's Golden Coyote training exercise will allow more than 3,500 service members to conduct combat support and combat service support missions in a realistic training environment and provide valuable services to the public.

There will be 55 military units representing 11 states and four foreign nations participating in the exercise and from multiple branches of military service – Army, Navy and Air Force – working together to create an invaluable training experience. Participating units train on their equipment and employ tactics, as well as complete various engineer projects that help improve the forest and infrastructure of many local communities.

Local residents receive numerous benefits of the many engineering projects being conducted during the training exercise. Units transport timber cut in remote areas to those who can use it as firewood, identify hazardous wilderness areas and make them safe for public use, and re-surface local roadways that have fallen into disrepair.

In addition, individual units are able to participate in numerous warrior training tasks and battle drills, such as urban combat operations, land navigation, first aid, casualty evacuation, and day and night convoy operations. This provides a valuable opportunity for units to train on skills needed for any future overseas deployment.

Missions for the 2013 Golden Coyote training exercise are conducted throughout the Black Hills and the surrounding area, both in local urban areas and remote wilderness sites.

## DOOHEN RECOGNIZED FOR VOLUNTEERISM

Last week, Gloria Doohen was awarded the National Guard Bureau Gold Award for her contributions to family programs, both Army and Air, through volunteering.

The National Guard Joint Family Program recognizes the importance of volunteers in the success of their national program. The Family Program's goal is to recruit, train and motivate volunteers. To further this goal, the recognition of volunteers is a priority.

Gloria was recognized for her long-term, consistent, and dedicated support to volunteering with the family support program.

Doohen is the wife of former Adj. Gen. Maj. Gen. Steven Doohen.



# Upcoming Events

Jun. 6-9—American Legion State Convention—Ramkota Hotel/Conference Center—Rapid City  
 Jun. 7—VABHHCS Information and Benefit Fair—Pine Ridge—11:00 am  
 Jun. 13-16—VFW State Convention—Watertown Convention Center  
 Jun. 14—Glenn Green Memorial Dedication—Post 63 in Lake Preston—10:00 am  
 Jun. 19—Hiring our Hero Veterans—TREA—1981 E. Centre Street—Rapid City—10:00 am  
 Jun. 22—Special Legislative Session—10:30 am  
 Jun. 29—VFW's Salute the Veterans Golf Tournament—Rolling Hills Golf Club—Aberdeen—1:00 pm  
 Jul. 1—Black Hills National Cemetery Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am  
 Jul. 8—SD Veterans Council—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls—10:30 am  
 Jul. 26—Korean War Commemoration Display—SDNG Museum—Pierre  
 Jul. 27—Korean War Wreath Laying Ceremony at the SD State Capitol—Pierre  
 Jul. 31– Aug. 4—American Veterans Traveling Tribute—Hot Springs  
 Aug. 4—Freedom Poker Ride—Hot Springs  
 Aug. 21—Sioux Falls Veterans & Spouses Job Fair—Elmen Center (2505 S. Grange Avenue)—Sioux Falls—10:00 am  
 Aug. 24-25—Freedom Bird 2013—W. H. Lyon Fairgrounds—Sioux Falls 10:00 am—5:00 pm  
 Aug. 26-28—VSO Annual Benefits School—Ramkota Hotel—Pierre  
 Sep. 11—Stand Down—Wagner  
 Sep. 13—Stand Down Watertown  
 Sep. 20—Stand Down—Sioux Falls—VFW Post 628 (3601 S. Minnesota Ave.) 8:00 am—3:00 pm  
 Sep. 24—Stand Down—Aberdeen  
 Oct. 1—Black Hills National Cemetery Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am  
 Dec. 15—Wreaths Across America Ceremony—Black Hills National Cemetery—10:00 am



When in Pierre, veterans advocates are encouraged to stop by the Department and have a cup of coffee and visit with the staff. The Department welcomes visitors and appreciates the communication opportunities.

Ken Lindblad, Sanborn and Beadle County VSO, stopped in this week.



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